

She was a young Jewish girl when she was captured by the enemy. She would become the slave of a high-ranking military leader's wife. No hostage extraction team was coming to rescue her. Would she try to escape or complain? Not a chance. She'd do as she was told and she would do her very best at whatever she was told to do. She followed the true God. And when she found out her master, Naaman, had leprosy, she didn't smile and celebrate. She went to her master's wife and said: **"I know how he can be healed. I follow the living God and his prophet Elisha can heal him."**

Someone forgot to tell this young girl that you don't help the enemy by healing its army's top commander. Good thing! Naaman was healed of his leprosy and who knows how many came to know the true God in the nation of Aram because of it.

34 years ago tanks and soldiers were lined up in Moscow. Father Alexander Borisov and members of the newly formed Bible Society walked toward the military lines armed only with New Testament Bibles. If the soldiers refused to talk, they would climb on the tanks and drop the Bibles down the hatches.

Someone forgot to tell Father Borisov you don't fight guns and tanks with Bibles. Good thing! A few of the soldiers hid Bibles in their pockets, later they shared their Bible's with family and friends.

Someone forgot to tell that young Jewish girl and old Father Borisov. The same thing could be said in today's lesson. **SOMEONE FORGOT TO TELL JESUS.** This story beats them all.

It takes place at Jacob's well, outside the village of Sychar. This was Samaritan country, stuck between Judea to the south and Galilee to the north. It might as well have had signs posted: *"No Trespassing!"* Most Jews stayed out. So much so, if a Jew wanted to travel between Galilee and Judea, they were more than willing to add an extra day to go around Samaria, rather than through it.

Why the feud between Jews and Samaritans? Why the feud between the Hatfield's and McCoy's? It goes way back. The Samaritans were ticked off because the Zerubbabel wouldn't let them help rebuild Jerusalem when the Jews returned from Babylon. The Jews were ticked off because the Samaritans sold Jews into slavery, tried to desecrate their Temple, and robbed and killed Jewish pilgrims on their way to the Temple.

There was bad-blood between these people for the same reason there's bad-blood between people today ... pride, arrogance, revenge, anger, hatred, hurt feelings ... whatever you want to call it, it still boils down to one thing – our sinful human nature and sin.

We don't like to admit to it, but that's what causes

- Husbands to leave their wives and wives to cheat on their husbands.
- Families to struggle at getting along under the same roof.
- Kids at school not to liking other kids at school.
- Co-workers unable to get along and work as a team.
- Fellow members in Christian congregations have issues with each other.

Call it what you want, it still boils down to one thing – Sin! – plain and simple. It started with Cain and Abel, a couple of brothers who couldn't get along, and it will continue until our world's final day. But that doesn't make it right. And if it doesn't make you feel sick to your stomach, it should.

Someone had enough. So he decided to do something about it. He was as Jewish as you can get. Abraham, Isaac and Jacob were part of his family tree. He was a direct descendant of King David. Jesus is leaving Judea and heading up north to Galilee. He's going through Samaritan country to get there. He's not in a hurry, so he stops at Jacob's well in Sychar.

While waiting there, he asks a Samaritan woman for a drink of water and strikes up a conversation

with her. He told her that he was God's gift to the world. Because of the number of men she'd been with, she'd probably heard that line before.

Then he said something curious. He talked about giving her "living water." This wouldn't cut down or eliminate her daily trips to the well. This would eliminate her soul's thirst and an eternal trip to hell.

### Someone Forgot to Tell Jesus ...

- that Samaritans were off limits, and you go around Samaria,
- that Jewish men don't dare speak to Samaritan women,
- that you don't spend time with someone like "her," as if she was someone you could get to know,
- that you don't invite someone like "her" to join the church.

**Someone Forgot to Tell Jesus ...** a lot of things. Good thing!

Jesus wasn't just a man looking for a drink of water. He wasn't just a Jewish prophet who was passing through. He's the Christ, the promised Messiah! He's the source of the "living water!"

We're no different than the Samaritans or the Jews, or anyone else for that matter. And if someone had convinced Jesus not to associate with the Samaritans, he would have never associated himself with us either.

But Jesus' love for sinners is so deep that it goes deeper than the color of our skin, eyes and hair — it goes to the heart. Scripture says that's where we're all the same: **"Out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, slander."** That pretty much covers it, doesn't it? If you have a heart and it's still beating, God says you're guilty. You've sinned by the things you've thought, said and done. You've demolished your relationship with a perfect God. It made your heart a dried up wasteland of rebellion. That makes you his enemy.

But rather than avoiding us and the desert of sin in which we've built our lives, he walked right in ... uninvited ... and gave us "living water" in the Sacrament of Baptism.

He entered the hostile territory of our hearts and brought us face-to-face with our sin through precision cuts with the scalpel of his Law.

Then he pours over our wounds the refreshing "living water" of the Gospel to help and heal the heart. To revive our thirsty soul with the promise of his forgiveness and love.

And Jesus keeps right on walking into our hearts and lives. He keeps hydrating our thirsty souls with his body and blood in the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper. He forgives the sins you've committed against him, while strengthening your faith in him.

- Someone forgot to tell Jesus we deserved hell.
- Someone forgot to tell Jesus that making friends with us and a world of sinners was going to cost him dearly ... a Roman-style execution, a nightmare, called crucifixion.

**Someone Forgot to Tell Jesus ...** Good thing!

The woman was surprised by all that Jesus had told her. She believed in him as her Savior. While she's not the most likely candidate to be a missionary, her first reaction was to run back and tell everyone who she met at the well! Her neighbors were just as surprised, because she usually avoided them. They listened to her testimony. They came to the well and heard for themselves and believed in Jesus as their Savior.

It is only through faith in Jesus that you're forgiven, have a life in heaven waiting for you and his daily presence escorting you until you get there.

Then, share with others what God has done for you. It's only through you that the message of Jesus can spread. They will listen to your testimony. They may come here, and hear for themselves and believe in Jesus as their Savior.

**Someone Forgot to Tell Jesus ...** not to bother with you and me. Good thing!